

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A convertible furnishing apparatus, comprising:  
a base;  
a first quick-release locking mechanism attached to said base;  
a first auxiliary member having a first exterior surface supported on said base;  
and  
a first support bracket removably attached to said base by said first quick-release locking mechanism, said first support bracket being external of said first auxiliary member and engaging a second exterior surface of said first auxiliary member, wherein said first support bracket provides the sole means of lateral support thereto such that said auxiliary member is free from mechanical fastening means, further wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.
2. (Original) The furnishing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first auxiliary member is selected from the group consisting of a back rest and an arm rest.
3. (Currently Amended) The furnishing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first and second exterior surfaces are substantially perpendicular.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first support bracket includes a header and at least one leg extending generally perpendicular therefrom.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first support bracket further includes a flange portion having a slot engaging said first quick-release locking mechanism.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first quick-release locking mechanism includes a threaded fastener engaging said base.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of a sofa base, a loveseat base and a chair base.

8. (Currently Amended) The furnishing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a second quick-release locking mechanism attached to said base;

a second auxiliary member having a first exterior surface supported on said base; and

a second support bracket removably attached to said base by said second quick-release locking mechanism, said second support bracket being external of said second auxiliary member and engaging a second exterior surface of said second auxiliary member, wherein said second support bracket provides lateral support to said second surface such that said second auxiliary member is free from mechanical fastening means, further wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

9. (Original) The furnishing apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second auxiliary members are each back rests.

10. (Original) The furnishing apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second auxiliary members are each arm rests.

11. (Original) The furnishing apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first auxiliary member is one of an arm rest and a back rest and said second auxiliary member is the other of an arm rest and a back rest.

12. (Original) The furnishing apparatus of claim 11 wherein said arm rest has a first dimension and said back rest has a second dimension corresponding to said first dimension that is larger than said first dimension.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second auxiliary members are interchangeable.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second support brackets are interchangeable.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a convertible furnishing apparatus, said method comprising:

positioning a first external support bracket into engagement with a first quick-release locking mechanism that is attached to a base;

manipulating said first quick-release locking mechanism to removably attach said first support bracket to said base; and

positioning a first auxiliary member having a first exterior surface and a second exterior surface on said base such that said base engages said first exterior surface and said first support bracket engages said second exterior surface and provides the sole means of lateral support thereto such that said auxiliary member is free from mechanical fastening means, further wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of selecting a base from the group consisting of a sofa base and a loveseat base prior to positioning a first support bracket generally adjacent to a base.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of selecting a first auxiliary member from the group consisting of an arm rest and a back rest prior to positioning a first auxiliary member.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said steps of removably attaching a first support bracket and a second support bracket to said base each include threading a fastener into a bore formed in said base.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
positioning a second external support bracket into engagement with a second quick-release locking mechanism that is attached to said base;  
manipulating said second quick-release locking mechanism to removably attach said second support bracket to said base; and  
positioning a second auxiliary member having a first exterior surface and a second exterior surface on said base such that said base engages said first exterior surface and said second support bracket engages said second exterior surface and provides lateral support thereto such that said second auxiliary member is free from mechanical fastening means, further wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said positioning of said first and second auxiliary members is interchangeable.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said positioning of said first and second support brackets is interchangeable.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said step of positioning a first support bracket includes positioning said first support bracket generally adjacent to a first side of said base and said step of positioning a second support bracket includes positioning said second support bracket generally adjacent to a second side of said base, wherein said first and second sides of said base are perpendicular.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said step of positioning a first support bracket includes positioning said first support bracket generally adjacent to a first side of said base and said step of positioning a second support bracket includes positioning said second support bracket generally adjacent to a second side of said base, wherein said first and second sides of said base are parallel.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of selecting a second auxiliary member from the group consisting of an arm rest and a back rest prior to positioning a second auxiliary member.

25. (Currently Amended) A convertible furnishing apparatus, comprising:

- a base unit comprising at least four feet;
- first and second quick-release locking mechanisms attached to said base;
- first and second interchangeable auxiliary members each having a first exterior surface supported on said base; and
- first and second interchangeable external support brackets each removably attached to said base by one of said quick-release locking mechanisms, each said support bracket being external of said auxiliary members and engaging a second exterior surface of said respective auxiliary members, wherein said support brackets provide the sole means of lateral support such that each said auxiliary member is free from mechanical fastening means.